

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 CU-04 IO-13

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R 181646Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4598

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, N/A

SUBJECT: EMBASSY PARTICIPATION IN TELEVISED ROUND TABLE

REF: STATE 137887

1. THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA STUDENT FEDERATION SPONSORED ROUND TABLE ON THE TOPIC OF "PEACE AND CO-EXISTENCE IN THE MODERN WORLD," WITH PARTICIPATION BY EMBOFF, SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER, FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO, WAS CARRIED BY FOUR TELEVISION CHANNELS AND TWO RADIO STATIONS JULY 16. THE NEARLY TWO-HOUR SESSION WAS LED OFF WITH PREPARED PRESENTATIONS BY THE THREE PARTICIPANTS, FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS TELEPHONED TO THE STUDIO BY THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE. PUBLIC REACTION, AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD, HAS BEEN TOTALLY FAVORABLE. PUBLIC'S QUESTIONS WERE NOT DIFFICULT, ALTHOUGH THE STUDENT MODERATOR DID FILTER OUT AND NOT ASK SOME POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING ONES.

2. A PASSING REFERENCE IN THE STUDENT MODERATOR'S PREPARED INTRODUCTORY REMARKS TO THE WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS (WFYS) WAS STRICKEN AT EMBASSY SUGGESTION. AS A RESULT THERE WAS NOT ONLY NO PUBLIC CONNECTION BETWEEN THE EVENT AND THE WFYS, BUT THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES REITERATED BEFORE AND AFTER THE SHOW THAT THEIR WEEK-LONG

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VACATION STUDENT FESTIVAL WAS UNRELATED TO THE BERLIN EVENT.

EMBOFF STRESSED IN HIS OPENING REMARKS THE EMBASSY HAD RESPONDED TO THE STUDENT FEDERATION'S INVITATION. WHILE PREPARED TO GO FURTHER TO DISSOCIATE USG FROM WFYS AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL, SUCH A REFERENCE WOULD HAVE ONLY FOCUSED UNWANTED ATTENTION ON NON-ISSUE.

3. COMMENT:THE EMBASSY'S OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH THE CURRENT CROP OF UCR STUDENT LEADERS WAS WELL SERVED BY OUR PARTICIPATION.
LANE

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